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Orlando Sentinel

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Weather

8 A.M.: **64°**
2 P.M.: **79°**
5 P.M.: **76°**
CHANCE OF RAIN: **0%**

WEATHER REPORT, C10

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News Now

SPORTS

◆ **COACH JIMBO FISHER** leaves Florida State for Texas A&M, marking a surreal, sad end to the Jimbo Era, Mike Bianchi writes. **C1**

◆ **UCF ENTERS TODAY'S** AAC title game against Memphis trying to forget its ranking and the potential departure of coach Scott Frost. **C1**

◆ **THE WARRIORS** roll into Orlando and drop the Magic 133-112. **C1**

LOCAL & STATE

◆ **COMMISSIONER REGINA HILL** will pursue criminal charges against former firefighter Joshua Granada for recording her during a medical call. **B1**

◆ **THE OPD IS INVESTIGATING** after officers at OIA refused to escort a woman who was attacked in an airport parking garage. **B1**

◆ **DISNEY UNIONS** are divided over a new contract that offers a 50-cent raise in each of the next two years. **B2**

NATION & WORLD

◆ **SECRETARY OF STATE** Rex Tillerson on Friday brushed off reports that the White House wants him out, calling the idea "laughable." **A4**

◆ **STOCKS DROPPED** sharply over worries that former national security adviser Michael Flynn's guilty plea to lying to the FBI could spell trouble for the White House. **A10**

STYLE & HOME

◆ **HOST OR HOSTESS GIFTS** don't have to just be bottles of wine. **D1**

◆ **DON'T WORRY** about small dead branches in oak trees, the Plant Doctor writes. **D2**

TOP STORY

Flynn pleads guilty to lying

Mueller investigation reaches Trump's inner circle

BY CHRIS MEGERIAN, DAVID S. CLOUD AND DAVID WILLMAN
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The investigation into Russian meddling in last year's election hit the White House for the first time on Friday as President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his contacts with the Russian ambassador and agreed to help investigators as they focus on other presidential aides.

U.S. District Court Judge Rudolph Contreras said the retired three-star Army general had agreed to provide "substantial assistance for prosecution of another person," giving special counsel Robert Mueller a critical leg up as he pursues the case.

The documents don't identify who that person is. But a former official identified Jared Kushner, the president's son-in-law and senior adviser, as the "very senior

Please turn to ***FLYNN, A3***

Michael Flynn has agreed to cooperate with FBI's probe of other aides.

LIGHTING UP THE NIGHT

AILEEN PERILLA/CORRESPONDENT

A TREE LIKE NO OTHER

The city of Orlando put the holidays in motion Friday night with its annual Tree Lighting Celebration at Lake Eola, as hundreds turned out to see Florida's largest Christmas tree officially lit. The 72-foot tree features 88,000 LED lights and more than 7,000 ornaments, according to the city. Friday also kicked off the city's "Deck the Downtown" event, where downtown businesses will be "decked out" with festive lights and window decorations through the end of the month.

GOP says it has necessary votes to pass tax bill

BY LISA MASCARO AND JIM PUZZANGHERA
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans, after a flurry of last-minute deals, appeared to have salvaged their tax plan Friday, putting Congress on track to deliver President Donald Trump's most significant first-year accomplishment.

The package, opposed by Democrats as a give-away to the wealthy that will pile on the national debt, challenges GOP orthodoxy against deficit spending. Even after accounting for future economic growth, the plan is estimated to add $1 trillion to the deficit over 10 years, undercutting GOP promises that the tax cuts will pay for themselves.

Still, only one Republican, Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, had publicly come out against the bill as the Senate prepared to vote. GOP leaders were confident they had enough sup-

Please turn to ***TAXES, A3***

State could expand textbook challenges

BY LESLIE POSTAL
Staff Writer

A controversial new state law that makes it easier for Florida residents to challenge books used in public schools could get overhauled next year so those who dislike certain texts could also suggest replacements they find more appropriate.

The proposed changes are in a bill (HB 827) filed by Rep. Byron Donalds, R-Naples, a co-sponsor of the initial bill (HB 989) signed into law in June.

At least one challenge to Florida textbooks has been filed since then, with a man in Nassau County complaining that middle and high school science books used in that North Florida school district taught the "scientifically inadequate theory of evolution as fact to our students." Florida's academic standards require evolution be taught in public school science classes.

No Central Florida school district has dealt

Please turn to ***LAW, A6***

Deals between cities, warranty companies raise questions

BY STEPHEN HUDAK
Staff Writer

■ **Ritchie: Local cities must cut ties with warranty companies, B1**

Mount Dora resident and former mayor Melissa DeMarco fetched her mail, opened an envelope stamped with the city logo and began to seethe.

"This letter contains important information about your responsibilities as a homeowner in the event of an emergency with your water and well service line," the enclosed message read. "The City of Mount Dora has selected Service Line Warranties of America to help eligible homeowners have the best possible service in the case of such an emergency."

The company bought the use of the city's name, logo and implied endorsement for a 50-cent monthly cut of every warranty it sells. Mount Dora is among more than 450 cities across the U.S. — including four others in Central Florida — that

Please turn to ***PRIVATE, A2***

Voices & Opinion

◆ **MATTHEW J. PALM:** "Orphans" is a compelling drama. **A2**
◆ **WHERE WE STAND:** Secret sex-scandal payouts must stop. **A14**
◆ **ASK AMY:** Is it OK to ask for a gift back years later? **B7**
◆ **MATT MURSCHEL:** AAC finale 1 of top 5 games to watch. **C2**
◆ **MARNI JAMESON:** Holiday decorating: Less is more. **D1**

What To Do Today

HOLIDAY 'NUNSENSE'

In Tavares Theater's musical comedy "Nuncrackers," the holy Sisters from Dan Goggin's popular play "Nunsense" wreak holiday havoc. The show's at 2 p.m. today and continues through Dec. 10 at Bridges Church Family Center, 1100 N. St. Clair Abrams Ave. Details: TavaresTheater.org. **MORE LOCAL EVENTS, B3**

COOL CARS LOOK EVERY SATURDAY IN THE DRIVE SECTION FOR NEW VEHICLES!

Orlando Sentinel

It's **1953** all over again; and my **MGTD roadster convertible** is in excellent condition, with a ground-up restoration, seat belts, epoxy painted, always garage kept and a true car show winner many times over! For the particulars, it's showing on Hemmings in their Classic Cars section.

1965 Ford Mustang Convertible Shelby GT350 clone. Owned since 1970 by Vance Jochim. Modified to include 302 engine with most Shelby performance items including Paxton Supercharger.

This is my **1970 Mustang Mach 1.** It has a 351 Cleveland engine automatic transmission power steering and air conditioning. I have won many awards and hope to keep it for a long time.

SEND US A PHOTO OF YOUR FAVORITE CAR!

Please e-mail your photo information (description and history of the vehicle), with the picture attached as a .jpg file, to coolcars@orlandosentinel.com with COOL CARS in the subject field. Please keep descriptions to 4 lines or less. Submissions are not returned.

COOL CARS IS NOW LIVE! Check out our new online photo gallery at Orlandosentinel.com/cars

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